THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has informed that the Joint Venture in which the company is a partner has found oil in an onland block in Masila Basin in Yemen.

(b) As per RIL's preliminary estimates, its share of reserves is in the range of 40-60 million barrels of recoverable oil.

(c) The leads obtained from the discoveries are to be pursued and techno-commercial viability established before commercial production can commence, for which no time frame can be laid down.

Establishment of octane testing centres in Chhattisgarh

2970. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Chhattisgarh has requested any financial assistance for establishment of stationary as well as mobile octane testing centres in Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the request has been accepted by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, Indian Oil Corporation has a notified Static Laboratory at Nishatpura (Bhopal) with Octane testing facility, which caters the need of Chhattisgarh area. There are 2 Mobile Labs under operation in the State of Chhattisgarh. These Mobile Labs are not equipped with Octane testing facility.

Criteria for Allotment of LPG Agencies

2971. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria for allotment of LPG agencies and the number of agencies in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether in many cases the agencies are storing far more cylinders than the approved capacity and many of them are engaged

in illegal filling and transfer of LPG cylinders that are of sub-standard quality; and

(c) if so, the penal action provided for in the relevant Regulations and the action taken/proposed to be taken against such defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) LPG distributorships are set up by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) at various locations on the basis of their commercial considerations. As on 1-7-2003, OMCs were operating 8,006 LPG distributorships throughout the country.

(b) LPG cylinders are stored by the distributors as per the approved capacity of their LPG godowns. OMCs have not reported any instance where the distributors are found storing LPG cylinders in excess of licenced capacity, nor illegal filling of LPG in sub-standard quality of cylinders in their godowns.

(c) OMCs take action against the distributors found to be involved in pilfering LPG as per the provisions provided in Marketing Discipline Guideline (MDG), 2001. These guidelines provide the penal action of Rs. 20,000 + the price of LPG pilfered at commercial rate in the 1st instance, fine of Rs. 50,000 + the price of LPG pilfered at commercial rate in the 2nd instance and termination of distributorship in 3rd instance.

Schemes to attract Bodh Pilgrims

†2972. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to implement any scheme to attract Bodh pilgrims from all over the World towards Indian Bodh pilgrimages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) Promotion of India's tourism products, including Buddhist Pilgrimages, is an ongoing process and this is done through various

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.